(3) upgradation and restoration of JKTDC properties and maintenance of local tourism infrastructure;

(4) refurbishment of important Monsteries in Ladakh; and

(5) commissioning a feasibility study for a Convention Centre in Leh.

The Deptt. of Tourism has sanctioned projects amounting to Rs. 488.47 lakhs during 1996-97 to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. A Task Force on the development of Tourism in J&K has been constituted.

Amount sanctioned for development of Kanyakumari

1536. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for development of the Tourism Centre "Kanyakumari" at Tamil Nadu;

(b) how much amount was sanctioned for the improvement of Kanyakumari during the past three years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA):(a) to (c) The Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects for the improvement of tourist facilities at Kanyakumari during the last three years.

Name of Project	*Amount Sanctioned*
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1. Ferry Launch Kanyakumari	39.07
2. View Tower at Kanyakumari	30.00
Total	69.07

Promotion of tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura

1537. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked to promote tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of new places proposed to be promoted in these States; and

(c) the number of new hotels to be constructed by ITDC during the said period in West Bengal and Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA):(a) and (b) The Central Department of Tourism identifies projects for Central Financial Assistance every year in consultation with the State Governments. 11 projects costing Rs. 250 lakhs in West Bengal, 10 projects costing Rs. 247 laksh in Kerala and 9 projects costing Rs. 217 lakhs in Tripura have been prioritised for central assistance for 1997-98. The projects in West Bengal are at Krishna Nagar, Alipurduar, Norghat, Fraserganj, Calcutta, Darjeeling, Dudhra, Kalimpong etc. The projects in Kerala are at Nallikette, Kumbergaon, Palakad, Karunagapally, Thiruvananthapuram, etc. The projects in Tripura are at Agartala, Udaipur, Shipahilaja, Kasba, Matabari, Ambassa, etc.

(c) In the proposals for Ninth Five Year Plan of ITDC, there is no proposal to construct any new hotel in West Bengal & Kerala.

Fund for development of tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura

1538. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the amount of fund allocated for the development of tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise?